

The majority party here recognizes that the kind of growth that we would like to see economically is, in a sense, demonstrated by Milton Friedman's remarks in his article, because we would like to see our economy continue to grow, and for individuals to prosper as they once did. That is exactly why we think it is very important to balance the budget and to reduce taxes.

Mr. Speaker, a lot was said around here this week about reducing taxes. We believe that it should be done in an extremely fair way. That is why, as this chart to my left shows, 76 percent of the tax relief that the Republican party has presented to the American people and in fact passed goes to people who make less than \$75,000 a year. They are the workhorses in our economy. They are the families who sit around the dinner table each night and talk about the day's activities. They are the families that also plan for their tomorrows.

We wanted those people to have the benefit of the tax cuts. That is why we did it in a very balanced way, as the next chart also demonstrates. This shows American taxpayers from the lowest income 20 percent, through the highest income 20 percent. We tried to balance our tax cuts so we would not change the distribution of who pays how much in terms of the total tax load that is sent here to Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, under the current tax plan as it exists today, 63 percent of the total dollars that are sent here are paid by the highest 20 percent. That is way over on the other end there, demonstrated by the red bar. The yellow bar shows that under the Republican tax plan, 63 percent will still continue to be paid by the highest 20 percent.

The same is true of the next percent, the percentage between 60 percent and 80 percent. Under the current tax plan passed in 1993 by the Democrats and Bill Clinton, 21 percent of the total tax load is paid by that quintile, as we call it, and under the Republican tax plan, 21 percent will be paid by that same quintile. The same is true of people who are in the third quintile, in the second quintile, and in the very lowest quintile, which does not change either.

So as we move toward a smaller Government, as we move toward a less expensive Government, as we move toward an economy that is what it used to be, we believe it should be done in a balanced and fair way. That is what my friends on the other side of the aisle have been disagreeing with throughout this week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. ETHERIDGE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ETHERIDGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NORM THOMPSON, ITS EMPLOYEES AND ASSOCIATES, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND EFFORTS TO HELP WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, during today's long and sometimes contentious debate we often look for good news. I am happy to say that as the legislative day draws to a close, I have good news to report to the House of Representatives, good news and also some thanks to offer; thanks to the company Norm Thompson, a well-known national mail order business whose corporate distribution center is in Kearneysville, WV, relatively close to Washington, DC, about an hour and a half's drive from here in Jefferson County, because week after next Norm Thompson is going to make an \$800,000 donation to a West Virginia charity to assist flood victims.

That \$800,000 donation is going to take the form of 44,000 units of men and women's clothing and footwear to be distributed to flood victims throughout our State of West Virginia. Norm Thompson will partner in this endeavor with Roadway Express, and they will transport the merchandise free of charge from the Norm Thompson distribution center in Kearneysville to Charleston, WV, on the other side of the State, for distribution by the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important gift and effort by Norm Thompson. Five times within the last year and a half West Virginia has been torn by major floods. I have one county in my congressional district, Randolph County, that has four times in the last year and a half been declared a Federal disaster area. We had four floods in 1996, and then again in February of 1997 a flood that tore through 16 counties, including many of our most populous areas.

So this effort by Norm Thompson and the hundreds of men and women who work for this corporation, headquartered in Oregon, but with its major warehouse distribution center in West Virginia, this effort will assist thousands of West Virginians as they recover and begin to rebuild their lives.

I think it is important to note that the chairman, John Emrick of Norm Thompson, said the donation is the first of many planned, noting the number of floods that West Virginia had had, and also saying, it is important to match our donation to the immediate needs of helping flood victims get back on their feet again. They are donating this to the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Services, a nonprofit corporation. They will in turn distribute this across the State.

Norm Thompson is a relatively new member of our corporate community in

West Virginia, a very valued one, but already employing hundreds of West Virginians. I know, having met personally with the CEO and the other top management, as well as many of the employees, I know how excited we are in West Virginia to have them as a corporate citizen.

I want to thank Norm Thompson and its many employees and associates for making this gift possible, and for their obvious commitment to West Virginia; not only for doing good business, but for being a good citizen, corporate and otherwise. I know that thousands of West Virginians as well thank Norm Thompson for this extremely generous gesture. We look forward to working with them in the future.

We thank them for recognizing needs that are present and we are excited about the opportunities that Norm Thompson offers, not only, as I say, in business, but also in being a member of our corporate community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS SHOULD USE THE SAME NUMBERS TO COMPUTE THE BENEFITS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TAX RELIEF PLANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about tax relief, tax relief which, in my opinion, and I think in the opinion and view of the vast majority of American families, is long overdue.

We were talking earlier with some of my colleagues about college commencement addresses. Some of us are asked to give a commencement address during the late spring and early summer of the year, and most of us do not remember who the commencement speaker was at our own commencement, particularly our college commencement.

I am one of the few who probably does remember, because the director of the United States Census was there to give our commencement address when I was in college. It was interesting to look back about what it was like growing up then, and the difference then. I was a baby boomer. I was born in 1951.

The Speaker that spoke at our commencement address, the director of the United States Census, told us on that day that there were more kids born in 1951 than in any other year. I represent the peak of the baby boomers. I remember, we were talking about what it was like to grow up in the 1950s.